



April 21, 2008

Dear Forest Warden,

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is pleased to inform you that we are currently accepting applications for an upcoming round of 2008 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grants. Funding for this program, provided by the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, is administered by the Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry.

VFA grant funds are available to non-profit rural call or volunteer fire departments that provide service primarily to a community or city with a population of 10,000 or less. Fire departments must be made up of at least 80% call or volunteer firefighters and be recognized as a department under state law.

Funding is available on a 50% reimbursement basis only. Successful applicants bear the full cost of the project (up to \$4,000) then apply for reimbursement of up to one half of that cost. Total reimbursement amount shall not exceed \$2,000. Reimbursement is available for cash expenditures only, but the applicant's share of the project may include either cash expenditures or in-kind services (donations, volunteer hours etc).

Total funding available this grant round is \$73,207. Funds are to be dispersed through the Cooperative Fire Protection (\$38,696) and the National Fire Plan's "Communities at Risk" (\$34,511) monies. Communities may apply for either or both of the Cooperative Fire Protection (CFP) and the National Fire Plan's (NFP) funds at this time.

CFP eligible proposed projects will be those within the categories of firefighter safety, technology transfer, and rural fire defense. Your application must describe your project and how it relates to the above categories.

NFP eligible proposed projects will be considered in the following priority: (1) high risk communities adjacent to federal lands (2) those communities working in partnership with federal firefighting agencies in responding to wildland fires (3) high risk communities within the state, not associated with federal lands. Your application must describe your project and how it relates to the above categories.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Ian A. Bowles, Secretary
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Richard K. Sullivan Jr., Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

This grant round will complete a program initiated by DCR 4 years ago that has outfitted all qualifying VFA communities with a Smokey Bear Fire Danger Rating Sign. The signs, which post the daily level of risk posed by wildfire, were distributed to increase community awareness and caution. Pending USDA Forest Service approval, each qualifying VFA community will also receive Incident Response Pocket Guides for their firefighters with this grant round.

Projects MAY NOT BEGIN until grant-award notification to the town has been made.

An application with eligibility guidelines is attached for your completion. The completed applications must be received by Program Coordinator Roxanne B. Savoie, DCR Bureaus of Forest Fire Control and Forestry, Hampton Ponds State Park, 1048 North Road/Route 202, Westfield, Massachusetts 01085 *on or before May 26, 2008.*

We welcome your participation in this program. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Savoie at 413 538-9092 or roxanne.savoie@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sullivan Jr.', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Richard K. Sullivan Jr., Commissioner
Department of Conservation and Recreation

cc: David Celino, Chief Fire Warden (DCR)
Roxanne B. Savoie, Forest Fire Program Coordinator